



CHIEF JUSTICE'S RULES ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING

February 7, 2020

North Carolina Judicial Center, Room A1101
901 Corporate Center Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

Call to Order

A meeting of the Chief Justice's Rules Advisory Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020, in the Executive Boardroom at the Judicial Center by North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Donna Stroud, Commission Chair.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Trey Allen, *Associate Professor*, UNC School of Government
Ann Anderson, *Associate Professor*, UNC School of Government
Mark Anderson, *Partner*, McGuireWoods LLP
Pamela Hill, *Clerk of Superior Court*, Randolph County
Mark Holt, *Partner*, Holt Sherlin LLP
Mike Mitchell, *Attorney*, Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, LLP
Kellie Myers, *Trial Court Administrator*, Wake County
Paul Ridgeway, *Senior Resident Superior Court Judge*, Wake County
Christine Walczyk, *District Court Judge*, Wake County

Commission Members in Attendance by Phone:

John Rabiej, former *Deputy Director*, Bolch Judicial Institute, Duke University School of Law

Other Attendees:

Jennifer Collins, *Policy Advisor to Representative Sarah Stevens*, North Carolina House of Representatives
Neil Inman, *General Counsel to Speaker Tim Moore*, North Carolina House of Representatives
Jamie Lassiter, *Executive Director*, North Carolina Conference of Clerks
Patrick Slaughter, *Director of Professional Services*, Tyler Technologies
Rebecca Stevens, *Research Assistant to Representative Sarah Stevens*, North Carolina House of Representatives



Minutes of Meeting
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Brad Fowler, *Chief Business Officer*, North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts
Andrew Simpson, *Chief Counsel for Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs*, North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts
Grant Buckner, *Administrative Counsel*, Supreme Court of North Carolina
Seth Ascher, *Assistant Administrative Counsel*, Supreme Court of North Carolina
Betse Hamilton, *Office Administrator*, Supreme Court of North Carolina
Ashley Stewart, *Law Student*, Elon University School of Law

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 10, 2020 meeting were approved, as written.

Old Business

Q&A Session with Tyler Technologies

Patrick Slaughter, Director of Professional Services for Tyler Technologies, demonstrated Guide & File, the pro se platform of the Judicial Branch's new statewide electronic-filing and case-management system, and answered questions about the product.

Plan for Report to Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts will provide a report no later than March 1, 2020, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, as mandated by North Carolina Session Law 2019-243 (House Bill 470), Part 1, Section 3.(b). Andrew Simpson stated that the report will cover the Commission's progress toward providing proposed rule amendments to the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

General Rules of Practice Subcommittee Report

Mark Anderson, Subcommittee Chair, reported that additional edits have been made to the preliminary draft of a revised Rule 5, "Form of Pleadings."

Discussion ensued as to whether the rule should make it mandatory for all attorneys to e-file their documents with the court. Possible exceptions were also debated.

Discussion ensued concerning the time of filing—specifically, whether deadlines should be enforced at 5:00 p.m. or 11:59 p.m. Consensus was reached that the subcommittee should draft a rule with a 5:00 p.m. deadline.

Rules of Civil Procedure Subcommittee Report

No report was given.

New Business

Integration of Existing e-Filing Rules

The topic of integration of existing e-filing rules was tabled until the next meeting.

Next Steps and Schedule for Upcoming Commission Meetings

Mr. Anderson will circulate a draft of a revised Rule 5 of the General Rules of Practice to Judge Stroud and the GRP Subcommittee members.

Grant Buckner will meet with the Chief Justice and Associate Justices at the Supreme Court's next conference to report on the progress of the Chief Justice's Rules Advisory Commission.

Upcoming Commission Meetings

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2020, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. An additional meeting date was set for Friday, April 24, 2020, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Judicial Center in the Executive Boardroom, Room A1101.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. by Judge Stroud.

Minutes submitted by: /s/ Grant E. Buckner
Administrative Counsel, Supreme Court of North Carolina

Date: 2/27/20